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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, AND YEMEN

US recognition of the republican regime in Yemen has caused predictable bitterness in Jordan and Saudi Arabia, which continue to support the Yemeni royalists.

The Jordanian Government has threatened to reappraise its pro-Western orientation and to consider "the utility of dealings with Communist bloc nations."

Jordan might accept Soviet aid missions as a prelude to the establishment of formal diplomatic relations with the USSR.

Although King Husayn's regime is unlikely in the final analysis to jeopardize vitally needed American aid by turning to the bloc,

Husayn and Tal nevertheless may search for lesser ways to show their displeasure. Tal said it apparently was essential to increase their "nuisance value" to get the US to pay attention to their views.

Tal [REDACTED] has sent a message to Saudi Prime Minister Prince Faysal suggesting that their two governments undertake a joint reappraisal. Faysal probably will welcome the proposal. The Saudis recently resupplied royalist forces with small arms and ammunition obtained from Pakistan and Belgium.

Both governments are convinced that the US action will encourage Nasir to foment and support revolutions against them. New sharp verbal attacks on the Saudi and Jordanian monarchies, as well as the UK, by Nasir and Prime Minister Salal of the Yemeni republican government will reinforce Saudi and Jordanian determination to continue aiding the Yemeni royalists.

The military situation in Yemen has not changed significantly during the past week. The UAR has resorted to night bombing of Yemeni royalist supply lines and positions. Although pro-royalist villages have been destroyed, the Imam's forces appear to have suffered little damage from these forays.

Tribal loyalties continue to shift. One tribe turned on and killed the revolutionary minister of information who was accompanying it in an attack against some of the Imam's followers, and defected to join the Imam's forces.

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